

ULSTER YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM

Ulster YouthBuild is a comprehensive job training, education, leadership development, and community development program for out-of-school low-income young people between the ages of 16 to 24. Applicants for YouthBuild are required to attend a three-week Mental Toughness Orientation before they can be enrolled in the program. Once selected for enrollment, participants begin the regular program schedule which consists of spending half of their time in the YouthBuild classroom, where they prepare for taking the NYS High School Equivalency test HSE/TASC, and half of their time being trained in construction skills at the YouthBuild construction project sites.

YouthBuild Program components include HSE/TASC preparation, Leadership Development/Life Skills training, Case Management/Counseling, on-the-job Construction Skills training and training that leads to specific certifications – HBI-PACT, NCCER, OSHA, Lead Renovator and BPI. Participants receive compassionate interaction from a very supportive staff throughout each program component and it is this camaraderie that allows YB students to work on rebuilding their lives, and to move forward in a more positive direction. A major contribution to the community may be the rehabilitation/construction of houses that are sold to low income, first-time home buyers.

The Ulster YouthBuild program has been in existence in Ulster County for more than 19 years and to date has served more than 500 young people. In collaboration with the City of Kingston and Ulster County Habitat for Humanity, YouthBuild has rehabilitated/constructed 22 houses located in the City of Kingston, the Village of Ellenville and the Town of Ulster. YouthBuild has further contributed to the community through **community service learning projects** that include: construction of a **Member Lounge and a Teen Center at the YMCA**, building of a **Shower Complex** located on the Rondout Waterfront in Kingston that is **used by boating tourists** docking at the waterfront and visiting our community, building of a **Gazebo at Rotary Park** located at Kingston Point on the Hudson River, rehabilitating of a City Community Center building to create additional recreational space, construction of several **Handicap Ramps** for house-bound elderly, installation of a **new roof on the Veterans of Foreign (VFW) Center**, **replaced the floors** for a local **Homeless Center** and **rehabilitated a building on the campus of SUNY Ulster County Community College** campus to provide a location for UCCC's Clean Energy Technology Training (CETT) center. For additional information or to request an application contact the YouthBuild office at 845-331-2381.